

Maine Coastline

News from the Maine Coastal Program

Spring 2002



Justin Kenney

Looking Toward the Future

Maine lobsterman Pat White, a member of the Pew Oceans Commission, advocates for local participation in managing resources.

Commission Chairman Leon Panetta discusses Maine's successful comanagement program with lobsterman Bob Baines.

Two years ago an independent group of American leaders, the Pew Oceans Commission, began taking a hard look at how the U.S. is managing its marine resources in terms of fisheries, aquaculture, coastal development, pollution, invasive species and climate change. One Commission member, Patten (Pat) White, hails from York, Maine. He's a commercial lobsterman who serves on the board of several fishing industry organizations and was formerly Executive Director of the Maine Lobstermen's Association. Pat recently shared with *Maine Coastline* his impressions from the Commission experience to date, which has involved site visits around the country and extensive research into the complex web of coastal crises.

"The Commission process has helped people become aware of how interconnected these issues are," White reflects. "My focus had been primarily on fisheries so it was an eye-opener for me to realize how much impact coastal pollution, particularly nonpoint source [runoff], has on our estuaries where 80 percent of our baby fish and shellfish live."

The relentless spread of development exacerbates that pollution. "On top of a fisheries downturn," White says, "we have McMansions going up. Those of us who fish in Southern Maine have long warned our counterparts downeast that development is headed their way. They didn't think it would ever reach them, but look now at Bar Harbor. It's happening everywhere."

The demographic pressures that are transforming Maine's coast are even more pronounced elsewhere. "It should be a warning sign to us," White holds. "We're still out ahead of much of the country in having a chance to slow or stop these damaging trends, rather than just trying to restore what's been lost."

What could help Maine and other states tackle this challenge? The Commission will recommend to Congress a framework for management that involves unified national standards and regional solutions. White, a strong advocate of local participation, believes that such standards "need to maintain flexibility yet keep some teeth. Each region of the country is confronting very different issues so you can't paint the whole country with one broad brush. The recommendations we

(continued on page 6)



Director's Column

May 2002

As the weather grows warmer and the days longer, boaters and fishermen's thoughts turn to the water. They begin the process of readying their crafts for the coming season. Boats that have sat in storage through the winter undergo a spring overhaul, getting scraped, painted, repaired and tuned up in preparation for the busy summer season. A palpable sense of expectation marks boatyards and waterfronts at this time of year.

We've experienced a spring overhaul of our own at the Maine Coastal Program. Instead of resanding decks and caulking planks, though, we have turned our creative energy to redesigning the Program's website. Like most retrofit jobs, it turned out to be more work than we anticipated—largely because there is so MUCH the Coastal Program is doing. From citizen monitoring and smart growth to shore access and marine habitat mapping, our activities literally do cover the coast—all 4,500 miles.

Our new website, www.maineoceanprogram.org, provides an in-depth look at the array of current MCP projects, along with links to numerous related programs. We're particularly pleased to offer as a download some of our popular publications, like the *Coastlinks* resource guide. The website also features our brand new biennial report that highlights many recent accomplishments. (If you're not on the web or prefer to receive a hard copy, please contact us: we'd be happy to send you a copy.)

When you're not out on the water enjoying the fruits of your spring overhaul, I hope you'll take a "virtual cruise" to visit our new website. Let us know what you think: we are continuing to build the site and welcome your feedback. As every boat owner knows, the "spring" overhaul can often last for months if not years!

Kathleen Leyden
Maine Coastal Program Director

Maine Coastline

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Take the Pledge to Protect Maine's Watersheds

The Coastal Program soon will release a new *Maine Watersheds Pledge Book*, the latest tool in an ongoing coastwide campaign to reduce nonpoint source pollution among individuals and homeowners. The book explains how watersheds work and outlines ways that Maine citizens can promote healthy watersheds and coastal waters by controlling household pollution.



Using a human-powered mower instead of a gasoline mower is a good way to help reduce nonpoint source pollution.

Ten sections describe often unsuspected sources of pollution (such as pets, household cleaners and yard maintenance practices), along with 54 practices that residents can readily employ to conserve and protect their watersheds.

Citizens are encouraged to sign and return their

Watershed Pledge cards to the Coastal Program by July 31, 2002 to be eligible for a raffle. All those who take the pledge will receive a window sticker recognizing their work to protect Maine's watersheds.

The *Maine Watersheds Pledge Book* is part of a pilot campaign in the Penobscot Bay and Muscongus Bay regions, done in collaboration with partners in the Coastal Program's priority watersheds. Other elements of the campaign include posters, book covers, radio spots, public service ads and a television show. For more information, contact Theresa Torrent-Ellis at (207) 287-2351, theresa.torrent-ellis@state.me.us or Amy Minarik at 287-5305.











Sample Watershed Pledges

I pledge to:

- ☐ Mow with a non-power or electric mower
- ☐ Plant native groundcover, reducing my lawn
- ☐ Choose Maine-friendly pest-resistant plants
- ☐ Have my septic tank inspected annually
- ☐ Minimize toxic household products
- ☐ Use biodegradable soaps
- ☐ Clean up pet waste at home or walking my dog
- ☐ Dispose of chemicals properly
- ☐ Compost
- ☐ Install water-saving devices
- ☐ Reduce my use of pesticides and chemicals
- ☐ Wash my car at a commercial car wash
- ☐ Use ground cloths and drip pans in home repair
- ☐ Always practice boating pumpout procedures
- ☐ Minimize non-porous surfaces when remodeling
- ☐ Position gutters to drain onto grass or soil
- ☐ Use paving stones, bricks, sand versus pavement

SHORE STEWARDS PROGRAM AWARDS WATERSHED GRANTS

Maine Shore Stewards, a collaboration between the Maine Coastal Program, Departments of Marine Resources and Environmental Protection, the University of Maine Cooperative Extension and the Maine Community Foundation, recently awarded a series of technical assistance grants to help reduce polluted runoff in coastal watersheds. Thirty-nine applicants submitted requests totaling more than \$600,000, a large increase over the previous year. Ten awards were made, totaling \$126,500, for the following projects:

-  **York County Soil and Water Conservation District**—Expansion of an existing citizen monitoring program and a watershed assessment of nonpoint source pollution.
-  **Presumpscot River Watch**—Organizational capacity-building and a watershed survey of Inkhorn Brook
-  **Town of Freeport**—Development of a sub-watershed plan for proposed growth areas in the Town of Freeport
-  **Town of Brunswick**—Development of a mechanism for tracking data on septic system pumping data tracking mechanism; community education; and stream monitoring using a dye-testing procedure.
-  **Sheepscot Valley Conservation Association**—Organizational capacity-building.
-  **Friends of the Medomak Watershed/Medomak Valley Land Trust**—Water-quality Monitoring and community capacity-building in the Medomak watershed.
-  **Cove Brook Watershed Council/ Project SHARE**—development of GIS database, nonpoint source pollution survey, landscape and land-use analysis, and fluvial geomorphic assessment
-  **Union River Watershed Coalition**—education and outreach in the Union River Watershed
-  **Mount Desert Island Water Quality Coalition**—increase community support
-  **Washington County Council of Governments**—work with municipalities on comprehensive plan updates that would strengthen nonpoint source pollution requirements

Maine's New "GeoLibrary" Provides Critical Boost For Planning

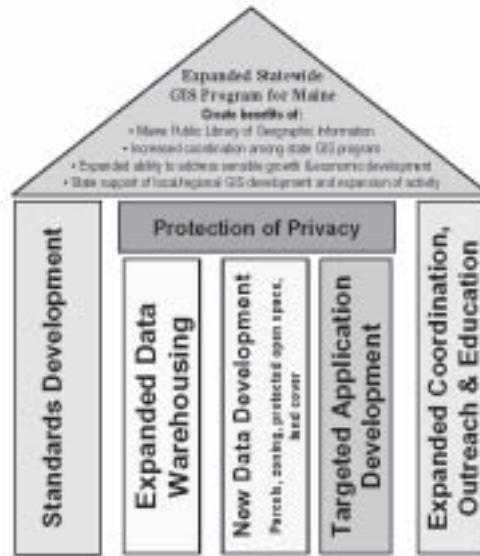
by Mary Ann Hayes, Maine Coastal Program

Those who work with digital geographic information systems (GIS) know all too well the frustrations it can involve, being unable to locate existing data or relate data layers from different sources. The State will soon help address these problems: a Steering Committee assessed GIS needs statewide and developed a strategic plan for efficiently coordinating deployment of GIS data and technology by the public and private sectors.

Its key recommendation is to create a Maine Library of Geographic Information, or "GeoLibrary," an internet-based clearinghouse for geographic data, staffed by two core positions (most likely in the Maine Office of GIS). A board representing all levels of government, private sector users, GIS vendors and the public will oversee the library's development and establish and enforce standards for electronic geographic data funded by State dollars (so that data are properly developed, source-referenced and available for repeated use by the public).

The board will also provide technical assistance to local governments, through regional GeoService Centers, helping ease their transition into GIS technology. The Committee gained Legislative approval for a \$2.3 million bond issue to help fund this effort. The GeoLibrary funding will join with several other projects in an environmental bond question on this November's ballot.

Establishment of the GeoLibrary will advance Maine's high ranking as the 5th most advanced state in the use of digital technology to conduct public business. For a copy of the full report, see <http://www.appgeo.com/clients/maine>. For more information about the GeoLibrary's development, including ways to apply for nomination to the board, contact Mary Ann Hayes at 287-1009 or maryann.hayes@state.me.us.



The new Maine Public Library of Geographic Information, or GeoLibrary, will be built on the foundation of advancements made in the five separate areas represented by the pillars above.



Chris Bartlett/Maine Sea Grant/Marine Extension Team

Salmon pens at Shackford Head in

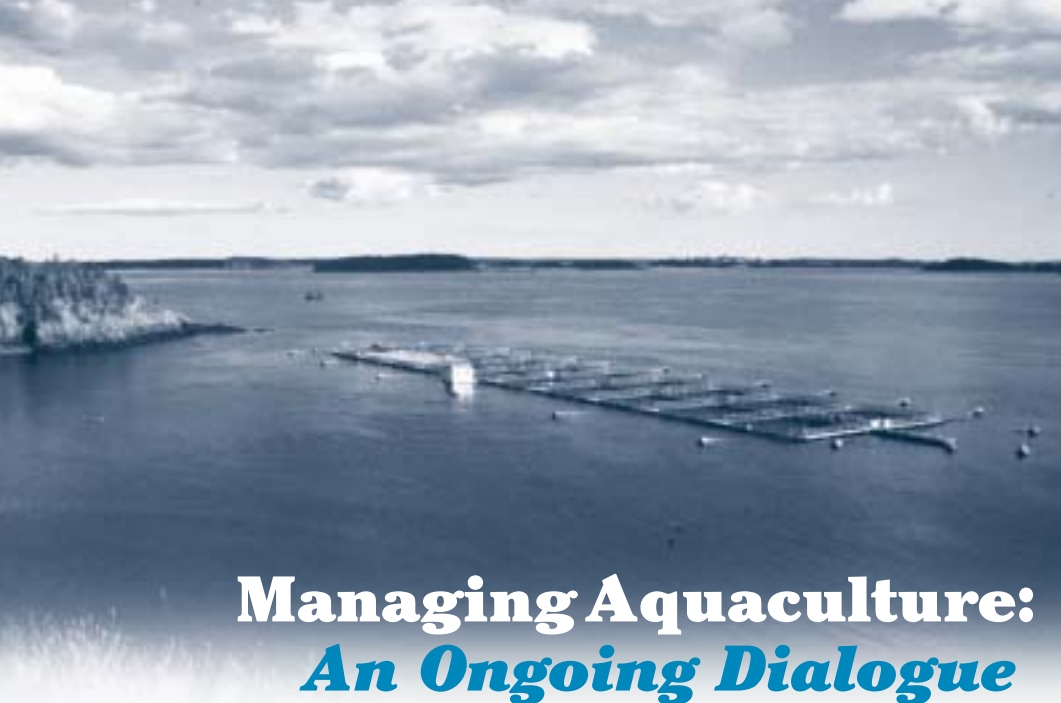
Legislative



Closing Subdivision Loophole

Recent changes to Maine's subdivision law make it more difficult to abuse. Under the previous law, some landowners and developers created 40- to 50-lot divisions that were exempt from local review because of how they had gifted lots to relatives. That particular loophole and one involving gifts to abutters are now closed.

The new exemption governing gift lots to relatives is confined to parents, children, grandparents, grandchildren, siblings, and a few



Cobscook Bay, Eastport.

Managing Aquaculture: *An Ongoing Dialogue*

In January 2002, the Department of Marine Resources (DMR) completed a review of the state's aquaculture leasing program and recommended statutory, regulatory and policy changes that agency staff believed would make the process more "sustainable, efficient and fair." These measures included shortening the now lengthy application process and greatly improving the public's access to information about applications.

The DMR report prompted concern among some members of the Legislature's Marine Resources Committee, several conservation organizations and riparian property owners who felt that DMR's proposed changes did not adequately address local concerns. They advocated instead for a provision that would

give municipalities the right to approve aquaculture applications located within 2,500 feet of shore. That proposal represents a significant departure from current marine resource management as the State typically oversees all marine resources within its waters (from mean low water to 3 miles offshore). The King administration objected to this degree of local control, asserting that towns already can take a meaningful role in the approval process for aquaculture leases.

After deliberating extensively, the Marine Resources Committee voted to postpone indefinitely the draft legislation that it had prepared following a well-attended public hearing and several work sessions. The Committee plans to continue studying the issue and develop a bill for the next session that will have a broader base of support.

Thanks to Andrew Fisk at the Department of Marine Resources for contributing to this article.



Learning about the Aquaculture Leasing Process

The Maine Coastal Program recently teamed up with Maine Sea Grant to produce an informative booklet to help citizens participate in the aquaculture leasing process. The guide, *Marine Aquaculture*, explains what kinds of farming are done in Maine, where they occur, how leases are granted and who to contact for more information. For a free copy of the guide, contact Sea Grant at 207-581-1442 or www.seagrants.maine.edu.

Update

holes

others who qualify as close relatives. The gift exemption only applies if the grantor has owned the lot for five years and the grantees hold the new lot for an additional five years.

As part of these changes, the Legislature asked the State Planning Office (SPO) to study how the definition of a subdivision affects a property's title, especially if that definition varies from municipality to municipality. That study resulted in a bill that was significantly changed in committee. The bill that passed (*LD 2119*) and is

now awaiting the Governor's signature, will eliminate municipal authority to modify the definition of a subdivision. The state definition will apply in all municipalities.

Thanks to Beth DellaValle and Matt Nazar at the Maine State Planning Office for contributing to this article.

Fishermen's Collaborative Offers Alternative Solution to Groundfishing Dilemma

With fishermen claiming that a court-ordered proposal by the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) to remedy groundfish overharvesting would put them out of business, a Maine-based alliance is offering an alternative plan. The Northwest Atlantic Marine Alliance (NAMA), a nonprofit collaborative composed largely of fishermen, proposes dividing the Gulf of Maine into zones and making fishermen responsible for creating the rules necessary to prevent overharvesting. This "comanagement" approach is akin to the lobster zone councils now responsible for overseeing lobster fishing in Maine, a system held up as a national model for effective resource management.

"The plan we have drafted represents a broad spectrum of interests," says NAMA's coordinating director Craig Pendleton, "and does a great deal to show that fishermen truly care about the environment." The groundfishing zones would be based on data gathered by tracking movement patterns of cod. NAMA's proposal calls for increasing the mesh size of nets, limiting gill nets, and banning fishing at night when cod mate.



Groundfishermen along the Maine coast hope that rebuilding stocks won't mean putting them out of business.

Pendleton says the NMFS plan—which called for halving the harvesting days allotted to fishermen in a given year, and counting one day as two during the prime fishing season—does not properly address the individualized aspects of commercial fishing in the Gulf of Maine. "It's completely the wrong way to go about accomplishing what we all want—sustainable, healthy fisheries," he asserts. "Instead of just complaining, we sat down at the

table and drew from our own experience and expertise. It's not rocket science, but it does show a lot of dedication from a lot of different people—people who truly care about what is happening and about how to craft a workable solution to the problem."

Editor's update: NAMA representatives attended the judge-mandated mediation in early April to propose their plan. The parties eventually compromised on an alternative agreement incorporating ideas from various participants, filed in U.S. District Court in Washington on April 17, which attempts to rebuild groundfish stocks without decimating the harvesting industry. For more information, visit the NAMA web site at <http://www.namanet.org>.

Pew Oceans Commission *(continued from front page 1)*

make," he continues, "probably won't please everyone but clearly what we're doing now is not working."

Reaching consensus on the right framework is daunting, but White has confidence in the collective wisdom of the commission members and the countless citizens who have provided input from around the country (including Rockland, Maine where the Commission held a site visit in June 2001). It's been a gift, White says, to work "with the greatest people from all walks of life. Now, through the report, we want to take that back to the people."

The Commission's final recommendations are due to Congress this fall. For more information on the Pew Oceans Commission, or to request a copy of their

upcoming report, visit their website at www.pewoceans.org or call Justin Kenney at 703-516-0605.

As the Pew Commission concludes its work, a federally appointed panel has begun reviewing coastal and ocean policy issues. The Oceans Act of 2000 (Public Law 106-256) established a federal commission to conduct an 18-month study and make recommendations to the President and Congress for a national ocean policy (www.oceancommission.gov). The 16-member Commission on Ocean Policy will hold a New England regional meeting in Boston this summer, and more details on their work will appear in a future issue of Maine Coastline. The combined force of these two initiatives should provide greater momentum for improved coastal management.

Nourishing Maine Beaches

Some southern Maine beaches that are subject to chronic erosion may start being replenished through “beach nourishment,” adding sand from either a dredged or upland source to artificially construct a more protective beach and dune system. Beach nourishment has become an accepted practice to battle erosion in some communities along the southeastern and mid-Atlantic coastline, especially those that depend heavily on beach tourism.



Winter storm waves pound the beach by two houses at Camp Ellis. Both houses were later destroyed by storms.

A 1998 state policy document, *Improving Maine's Beaches*, recommended that the State establish a comprehensive state policy on beach nourishment. The Maine Geological Survey of the Department of Conservation now is hosting a National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Coastal Management Fellow to help develop that policy. The coastal fellow, Peter Slovinsky, is working on a project entitled “Creating a Sustainable Beach Community at Camp Ellis, Maine” that focuses on alleviating erosion problems there (see sidebar).

That project has identified numerous issues—such as land ownership rights, timing restrictions, material transportation, ongoing monitoring and intergovernmental coordination—that will be part of the state's beach nourishment policy. To forge the best possible policy for Maine, Slovinsky has researched and documented the policies for beach nourishment in other states. “We’re using this information to create a scoring system,” he explains, “that can help communities determine the most appropriate method of beach management—weighing the pros and cons of nourishment against other tools such as dune revegetation, dune construction or no action.” Slovinsky expects that a draft beach nourishment policy will be completed by 2003. For more information, contact Peter Slovinsky at 207-287-2804 or Peter.A.Slovinsky@state.me.us.

Thanks to Peter Slovinsky at the Maine Geological Survey for contributing to this article.



Third Annual Conference on the State of Maine's Beaches

**Monday July 15, 8:30 a.m.-5:00 p.m.
Thornton Academy, Saco**

- ~ Featuring six plenary presentations, two field trips, lunchtime roundtables and a multimedia session.
- ~ Cosponsored by the Maine Coastal Program, Maine Geological Survey, Maine Sea Grant, University of Maine Department of Geological Sciences and the University of Maine Cooperative Extension.
- ~ For more information, contact Maine Sea Grant Extension at 207-646-155, x 115.

A Pilot Project in Beach Nourishment

*by Robert Marvinney
Maine Geological Survey*

Jetties in Camp Ellis dating back to 1867 have caused the most severe coastal erosion on the Maine coast. The small beachfront community in Saco has lost more than 30 properties because the jetties have cut off the beach's sand supply from the Saco River and reflect waves onto the beach thereby accelerating erosion. Along the beach nearest the jetties, erosion averages 2-3 feet/year.

Through a planning process begun in 1999, the Saco Bay Planning Committee identified jetty modification and beach replenishment as keys to addressing chronic erosion at Camp Ellis. With direction from Maine's Congressional delegation, particularly Tom Allen's office, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers reassessed earlier studies it had done and concluded that an economical project could be done to address erosion there. Congress subsequently authorized funds for the project's design phase.

Since November 2001, the Corps, city officials, Camp Ellis residents, and state agency staff and others have been meeting to discuss the project details. Under consideration is roughening a portion of the jetty to reduce its reflectivity and replenishing the beach north of the jetties with sand either from an offshore deposit or upland source. Jetty modifications could begin as early as fall 2002 with beach replenishment occurring sometime in 2003. The relative merits of stone work and replenishment must still be weighed. For more information on this effort, contact 287-2804 or Robert.G.Marvinney@state.me.us.

While housed at the State Planning Office, the Maine Coastal Program funds positions in several state agencies. Upcoming issues of Maine Coastline will profile some of the individuals who help make the Program work.

Staff Profile:

Deidre Gilbert

In her role as the Department of Marine Resource's (DMR's) new Special Assistant to the Commissioner, Deirdre Gilbert has found a position that matches her interest in fisheries with her commitment to Maine. "I really appreciated growing up here," Gilbert says, "especially the character of the coastal communities. That's something I want to help preserve through my work."

Following studies at Bowdoin College, Gilbert entered a Marine Policy master's program at the University of Maine. That experience led to a National Sea Grant fellowship in Washington, D.C. where she worked for Congressman Tom Allen, handling ocean and fisheries issues and staffing the House Oceans Caucus. Gilbert enjoyed this year-long immersion in fisheries issues, but felt "too removed there from on-the-ground reactions to policies."

This winter Gilbert returned to Maine to work on policy development for state-managed fisheries (such as scallops, lobsters, urchins and shrimp). Her position at DMR involves "comanagement," in which government and user groups share responsibilities such as with Maine's new lobster zone councils. Gilbert also is helping to establish viable means of "limited entry" (restricting numbers of harvesters) in certain fisheries. She sees her role as a mixture of shaping new fisheries policies and "facilitating dialogue between governmental decision-makers and folks on the water. Maine is a great place to work on these issues," Gilbert says, "because it's at the forefront of designing and implementing new approaches to fisheries management."



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The Maine Coastal Program represents a partnership of local, regional and state agencies that work collaboratively to enhance management of the state's diverse coastal resources. Housed at the State Planning Office, Coastal Program staff work extensively with governmental agencies and community organizations such as local land trusts and regional economic development groups. Planning and outreach focus on such issues as watershed management, development issues, fisheries management, water quality monitoring, marine education, citizen stewardship, coastal hazards, marine infrastructure and habitat protection.

For more information on the Maine Coastal Program, please visit our website at www.maineoceanprogram.org